

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: ARTISTS GET STORM SIGNALS FROM PARTY LEADERSHIP

REF: MOSCOW 16820

1. NINE POLITICAL LEADERS, INCLUDING FIVE CPSU SECRETARIES, VISITED THE OFFICIAL ART SHOW AT MANEGE HALL ON NOVEMBER 11 AND WERE GIVEN IMPROMPTU LECTURE BY M.A. SUSLOV ON VIRTUES OF SOCIALIST ART. SURROUNDED BY WORKS OF A. KEYNEKA (PAINTER OF MARTIAL SCENES IN NA N POSTER STYLE), SUSLOV ASSERTED THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE BELONG TO THIS KIND OF ART. THE SCENE WAS SHOWN ON TV PROGRAM VREMYA. CPSU SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF CULTURE, P.N. DEMICHEV, WAS PRESENT.

2. PRAVDA EDITORIAL OF NOVEMBER 13 NOTES UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETINGS OF YOUNG WRITERS AND ARTISTS AND EXCORIATES ARTISTS WHO LOCK THEMSELVES INTO NARROW INTERESTS AND IGNORE "REAL" LIFE. EDITORIAL ALSO REFERS TO RECENT MEETING OF MOSCOW IDEOLOGICAL OFFICIALS AND THEIR CONCERN OVER ARTISTS TOO OLD TO REMAIN IN KOMSOMOL BUT NOT TAKEN INTO ARTISTS UNIONS; THIS IS SEEN AS A CAUSE OF IDEOLOGICAL WAVERINGS AND

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DEVIATIONS.

3. PRAVDA ANNOUNCED ON NOVEMBER 11 THE APPOINTMENT OF B. N. CHAPLIN AS SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO HANOI. CHAPLIN WAS PREVIOUSLY PARTY LEADER OF MOSCOW RAYON WHERE SEPTEMBER 15 "ART MASSACRE" OCCURRED (REFTEL).

4. COMMENT: THESE OFFICIAL ITEMS APPEAR TO SIGNAL SOVIET ARTISTS THAT AUTHORITIES ARE UNREPENTANT OVER THE "ART MASSACRE" ALTHOUGH DISMAYED OVER FOREIGN PUBLICITY AND THAT NO REPETITION OF FOLLOW-UP ART SHOW OF SEPTEMBER 29 IN IZMAYLOV SHOULD BE EXPECTED. AKTIV MEETING IN PARA 2 WAS HELD ON OCTOBER 28 AND WAS ADDRESSED BY MOSCOW CITY SECRETARY FOR IDEOLOGY V.N. YAGODKIN, REPUTEDLY THE MAN BEHIND THE "ART MASSACRE." DESCRIPTION OF ARTISTS TOO OLD FOR THE KOMSOMOL BUT NOT UNION MEMBERS SEEMS AIMED AT SEVERAL ARTISTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN BOTH OF THE UNOFFICIAL ART SHOWS. STOESEL

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